Appendix

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RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS
GREAT MIAMI RIVER (UPPER) WATERSHED

The Great Miami River (upper) Watershed Draft TMDL Report was available for public review from November 30, 2011 through January 5, 2012. This appendix contains the comments received and responses to those comments.

Four sets of comments were received on the draft report. The initials in parentheses following each comment denote the specific commenter, as listed in the following table:

Initials	Date Received	Name	Organization
CK	12/2/2011 (via email)	Craig Kauffman	Logan County Health Department
LW	12/5/2011 (via email)	Laura Walker	Grand Lake St. Marys/Wabash River Watershed Alliance
JB	12/20/2011 (verbal)	Jason Bruns	Shelby County Soil and Water Conservation District
JS	1/1/2012 (via email)	Jane Staley	Private citizen

The comments are grouped into two general areas: editorial comments and requests for more information.

Please note that location references to the draft report may not correspond to the same page numbers in the final report.

Editorial

Comment (LW):
We briefly looked over the TMDL recently released for the Mile Creek watershed. We found two roads misspelled. We didn't feel it warranted a formal comment, but thought someone should know. Goettemoeller is spelled wrong and Clune Stucke Rd. is listed as Clune Rd.

Response:
The misspellings were corrected in the final report.

Comment (JB):
In Section 1.2 Public Involvement, Page 6, Paragraph 3. The Loramie Valley Alliance is not a 501(c)(3) organization.

Response:
The reference to the 501(c)(3) status was removed in the final report.

Requests for Information

Comment (CK):
A 2,000 foot stretch of Blue Jacket Creek was recently denuded of all vegetation and "cleaned out" from Troy Road in Bellefontaine to near the CR 11 bridge. I wondered if this amount would affect its no impairment status for habitat.

Response:
The removal of riparian vegetation will likely lower the score of the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index when Ohio EPA next visits the area. However, the QHEI score by itself does not demonstrate impairment. Stream impairment is determined by the condition of the biological communities as reflected by the fish and macroinvertebrate index scores. If the biology does not meet goals and the impairment is directly related to habitat deficiency, then the site would be listed as "impaired" by direct habitat alterations. Besides habitat, biological impacts may be related to a number of other factors.

The denuding of the Bluejacket Creek riparian corridor in this reach is particularly unfortunate since the loss of shading could negatively affect attainment of the proposed CWH designation (upstream Opossum Run) and exacerbate nutrient enrichment effects downstream from the Bellefontaine WWTP.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Comment (JS):
This following comment may be relevant to stream quality in the Upper Great Miami River watershed:

On December 15, 2011 foamy white material floated down Greenville Creek at Bear's Mill in Darke County. I observed similar appearing foamy white material floating in Painter Creek along Gettysburg-Pitsburg Road that day. Although decreasing in volume, the foam continued through Christmas Day in Painter Creek as it ran under the East South Street bridge in Arcanum.

Whether or not that foam is relevant to your project, I am curious about its cause.

Response:
The foam being observed simultaneously in two different streams would tend to rule out a specific point source discharge or localized spill. Foams are generally associated with natural surfactants (substances that tend to reduce the surface tension of a liquid in which they are dissolved) related to algal die-offs, the breakdown and decay of leaf litter and organic material, and fine clay particles from field runoff. Based on the name, it's possible that there is an old dam or remnant with turbulent flow at Bear's Mill on Greenville Creek. Under the right conditions, that could produce a lot of foam.

For further information, the links below have a good discussion of natural vs. unnatural surface foams, with some photos in the Clemson University document.

http://www.nashville.gov/stormwater/docs/educational/Guidance_Foam_brochure.pdf

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/natural_resources/water/stormwater_ponds/muddy_turbid_water/index.html